

### Agenda item 1: CFS Negotiations 2020

As a general remark, we would like to point out that replacing CFS official meetings in person to prepare for negotiations - or to hold them - with online meetings carries a great risk of exclusion per se for a large part of our constituencies. While in theory virtual meetings open up a much wider possibility of participation, in reality, the **new global normal is the one of digital exclusion**, which is clearly affecting particularly the marginalized people and peoples all over the world.

We understand the limitations due to the current pandemic and although we still call for the need of having physical negotiations, we will engage in the first round of virtual negotiations for the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition on the premises that virtual modalities should contemplate all the complexities and elements of physical meetings. **The high CFS Standards of transparency, inclusiveness and space of dialogue and debate which have been practiced in previous negotiations should be fully translated and applied also in this virtual period.** To ensure that, we present a number of 7 specific comments on the proposed modalities:

#### Specific comments:

- 1) Paragraph a) under the section on modalities for negotiations: We believe it is important, within these rules, to guarantee a minimum number of interventions for the different mechanisms (CSM and PSM) depending on the time available, thus ensuring the inclusion of their voices and messages in the meeting. **The number of CSM participants and interventions for virtual negotiations should be the same as in physical negotiations.**
- 2) Paragraph g) under the section on modalities for negotiations: modalities on the composition of the Friends of the Chair group should be shared and these should reflect the need that **Friends of the Chair are open to all members and participants of the CFS**, as it was the case in all previous CFS in-person negotiations, and take into consideration the language diversity that this might involve.
- 3) Paragraph h) under the section on modalities for negotiations: as stated by the paper negotiations will take place either virtually or in a hybrid way, both allowing the **connection and active participation of colleagues from different regions of the world**. The time in Rome needs to be adjusted to these needs. It cannot be expected that the world adjusts to the time in Rome, rather the timing in Rome needs to adjust to the world. In this sense, a **good compromise, feasible for several time zones is three hours in the Roman afternoon (from 1-4pm, or 2-5pm CET)**, to make them better accessible to the Americas and Asia.
- 4) **A normal negotiation day could look like that:** a 3-hours formal negotiations session would be accompanied by a 1 hour meeting for internal consultation of Regional Groups and constituencies, and a 2 hour meeting of the Friends of the Chair or Language harmonization group which would count with interpretation. This modality could ensure a good combination of inclusiveness, efficiency and innovation.
- 5) Furthermore, **and in addition to interpretation into the 6 UN languages, all documents for the negotiation should be shared in all 6 UN languages at least 1 month in advance.**
- 6) The revised **section on hybrid modalities** has resulted in an even less inclusive format than the virtual one. Actually, the proposed modality cannot be called hybrid anymore, as active participation from outside would not be foreseen any more. In this sense:
  - o paragraph d): **1 CSM delegate is not acceptable, we request a minimum of 4-6 CSM participants in the room** to ensure that the inclusivity from previous experiences (with 10 up to 30 CSM delegates in the room) is adequately translated under the current circumstances.

- paragraph e): **webcast does not contemplate the hybrid modality initially suggested. We call for participants to be able to actively take part in the negotiations through the virtual modality.**
- 7) For the **CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition**: It should be clear that the **basis for negotiations will be the Draft for Negotiations**. The latest Matrix shared with the OEWG can only be seen as an additional tool. If it is used, it should be translated into the 6 languages.

## Agenda item 2: CFS Special Event in October

### 1) Remark on the process:

- We thank the CFS Secretariat for pulling together the Matrix with the proposals received and the presentation of consolidated proposal. Obviously, we have not been able to consult with our constituencies about these very recent documents. We acknowledge that the Chair and Secretariat called for suggestions, and we submitted our proposals, as few governments did, as well as several departments of FAO and other AG members.
- We see a clear need to keep the further preparatory process of this highly important events inclusive, and under the guidance of the CFS Bureau. We therefore suggest convening a preparatory group among AG members and interested Member States to accompany the CFs Chair and Secretariat in the further preparation process of the CFS Special Event. Once a proposal is finalized by this group, it should be submitted to the CFS Bureau for approval through a silence procedure.

### Checklist for CSM reaction to the CFS Secretary presentation (based on our proposals):

#### General:

- **Overall objectives and guiding questions** for each of the days
- The objectives and guiding questions should **connect the three days** in a logical and dynamic way with **the urgency of a radical transformation of food systems** as the HLPE report on the Global Narrative suggests.
- **Essential food workers** such as small-scale food producers and family farmers, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, fisherfolks and others **active participation in all panels** of the CFS Special event.
- **Gender** balance in the panel composition is as important as regional balance and should be ensured throughout the three days.
- The voices of the **Youth** should be given special attention. All members and constituencies of the CFS can make special efforts that young people will be involved in the preparations of and be among the speakers to the October CFS events.

#### On first day:

- The **objective** of this day would be to
  - a) assess the current global situation and food security and
  - b) discuss pathways for the urgently needed transformation toward sustainable food systems.
- In this context, FAO and HLPE could be invited to present the last **HLPE report and SOFI 2020**.
- This presentation could be followed by a panel to which we suggest a **CSM Women or Youth** representative be included.
- Would be also important to hear on the topic of this day from the **UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food**, either as a panelist or as the moderator.

#### On second day:

- The **objective** of this day would be to
  - a) assess the impact of Covid-19 on food security and nutrition,
  - b) share experiences of responses from governments, communities and international actors, and
  - c) discuss the need for a CFS policy guidance for the global response, recovery and resilience of food systems.
- In terms of urgency, it would be important to **reflect in the title the food crisis** that is accompanying Covid-19
- **Participation from Members states on Ministerial level** should be envisaged for that day, to visualize the high-level commitment of member states in supporting a coordinated global policy response to this crisis.
- The **CSM is elaborating a Global Synthesis Report** on the impact of Covid-19, the responses from communities and constituencies and the most effective policy measures that should guide governments and international actors in such kind of pandemics. Interest to share its findings in the CFS Special Event.

#### On third day

- **Objectives:**
  - Deepen discussions on food systems and nutrition and agroecology and other innovations processes, while also addressing their synergies, in view of negotiations
  - Critically discuss the process toward the UN SG's Food Systems Summit from the perspective of the CFS and previous Food Summits
  - Strengthen the voices of the Global South
  - Bring in the perspective from rural women to highlight their role in paving the way towards sustainable food systems
- FRAMING OF THE EVENT: International Day of Rural Women

Kick-off moment with a perspective on how women's struggles and experiences with sustainable agriculture and agroecological approaches will contribute to the profound transformation of food systems.

*Speaker from Women's smallholder food producer constituency from the Global South*
- FIRST PART OF THE SESSION – Contribution of the two ongoing CFS policy processes to the transformation towards sustainable food systems
- SECOND PART OF THE SESSION: Process towards the UN SG's Food Systems Summit

The discussion would **critically assess the process toward the UN SG's Food Systems Summit** and discuss it from the perspective of the principles that guide the reformed CFS and the legacy of previous UN Food Summits. In this context, it is important that the **plurality and diversity of existing opinions** can be expressed and that **a CSM representative is included in the panel.**

#### Possible panelists

- 2 Member States from the Global South
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
- CSM, PSM, RBA

### Agenda item 3: Proposed Planning on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment workstream

- We are glad to see that the process is starting, that an OEWG Chair will be appointed by the Bureau tomorrow and that the TTT will be convened possibly already in September.
- We would strongly support the proposal to have an OEWG meeting before February 2021 to ensure that CFS members and participants can kick-off this process adequately

and with due process, allowing us to take advantage of the Plenary Session to endorse a fundamental step of the process, as the ToRs. We are aware that this will require efforts on all of us in such a busy and complicated period but we believe that starting on the right track and ensuring solid grounds will make our work easier in the future.

- In this sense we also would like to stress the importance of identifying the background documents that will inform this process, as no HLPE Report is foreseen for this workstream and a wide array of literature is available on the topic. The spirit of the CFS should be reflected ensuring that different types of knowledge and evidence is gathered.

#### **Agenda item 4: Analysis of the contributions received for the Global Thematic Event on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises**

We appreciate the Report which has been elaborated with technical experts from the CSM in the TTT task team and acknowledge the work and efforts of the CFS Secretariat and the other Technical Task team members to facilitate the process and draft this report. So, we have nothing more to add to the report.

However, would be good to highlight that relatively few submissions were offered by states and by the RBAs, which reflects that the FFA overall has been somewhat ignored despite civil society efforts to disseminate it. Some of the most thorough responses came from civil society, and it is clear from this that people actually living in protracted crises see the FFA as an important framework.

It might be important to mention that no RBA or other organization has created a methodology for consistent monitoring of the use and implementation of the FFA Principles.

We also need to highlight that the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the crises already being experienced in so many countries, including through huge impacts on the food system. This is an issue that will only grow in importance and we need to keep the applicability of the FFA in mind, when discussing on policy responses to Covid-19.

Finally, we would like to inform you about our own process to produce an autonomous CSM Monitoring Report on the FFA which we will be presenting to the Global Thematic Event in February 2021.

#### **Agenda item 5-7: no prepared comment**

#### **Agenda item 8:**

CSM would like to make *save-the-date* announcement and open invitation: In October 2020, the CSM will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will therefore organize a major CSM Virtual Event on Monday, 12 October, the day before the CFS Special Event 13-15 October. All members and participants of the CFS will be cordially invited for this public, extraordinary event. So please save the date, 12 October!

